

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

At page 1, before the first line, insert –This is a divisional of co-pending U. S. Application Ser. No. 09/995,186, filed November 27, 2001. –

**REMARKS**

The present application is a divisional of co-pending U. S. Application Ser. No. 09/995,186, filed November 27, 2001 and is filed on behalf of the Applicants under 37 C. F. R. §1.34. The application is directed to the prosecution of pending claims 1-4 and new claims 21-36. Claims 21-36 are fully supported in the application and the specification contains no new matter. A copy of the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement is provided (without copies of the references) at this time.

**Support for Amendments**

Support for the amendments to independent claim 1 of improved resistance of the catalyst to compressive deformation under pressure is found at page 3, lines 1-3 and lines 12-20; at page 10, lines 1-29; Example 11 at page 15, lines 11-19 and in Table 2 at page 15. The term improved resistance to deformation under pressure is indeed fully supported and definite, because the sulfone cross-linked catalyst is directly compared with a similar ion exchange catalyst having no sulfone cross-linking (Table 2). Claims 5-13 are withdrawn per allowance by the Examiner. Claims 5-20 are cancelled. Support for the amendment to claims 2-4 and is found at page 3, line 29 to page 4, line 3; at page 4, line 30 to page 5, line 21; at page 8, line 18 to page 9, line 4; and at page 9 lines 15-21.

If the Examiner finds that there are some remaining issues to be resolved, Applicants would appreciate the Examiner to grant them a discussion or another interview pursuant to 37 C. F. R. §1.133, to clarify any issues and to place the Application in better condition for allowance. Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned to discuss any issues related to this application by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,



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March 22, 2004